

As the old saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied, and I will not stand by quietly as justice is denied to my congressional district by a foreign entity who should have no interest in this case. Today's editorial page in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* reads, "Time's Up for Mexico." It begins, "The reasons for Mexico to extradite murder suspect Jose Luis Del Toro Jr. will be the same tomorrow as they were a year ago. The only difference is that Mexico can no longer cite the need for time as its inexcusable refusal to send Del Toro to trial in the United States." I could not agree more. I am here today on the floor of the House to say, "Mexico, your time is up. Send back Del Toro."

DEBATE ON GUNS AFFECTS THE DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last week we had a heartbreaking debate on guns. Women Members of this body felt this debate with particular poignancy. If the truth be told, we regard ourselves as special guardians of issues that affect women and families, not because we are such, we are after all, self-anointed, but because we choose to be. However, I ask you to imagine a bill that came from outside, thrown in like a piece of dynamite to wipe out all your local gun laws, whether you are from the West and treasure your right to have a gun or whether you are from a crowded city and treasure your right to ban guns.

Two amendments came forward that would have invaded my district with law from this body. We defeated one handily, that that simply wiped out handgun laws in the District of Columbia. The other, we almost defeated. That is the one I want to talk about this afternoon, because it is one that is of special importance to women and children, and that is a bill that would have allowed people in the District of Columbia to have guns in their home.

Some Members came up to me and said, "Well, that sounds reasonable to me to have a gun in your own home." So why should we not impose that on the District even though your city council has said otherwise and even though no Member here would impose anything on anybody else's district. Nevertheless, I can understand the surface appeal of a gun in your own home.

Ask the women in your own district why they do not want a gun in their own home. No woman in America wants a gun in the home and there is a very good reason why. The greatest cause of death of women is inflicted upon them not by rapists in the streets but by guns and knives in the hands of their own partners in their own homes as it is now. Most of them go to the hospital, the victim of beatings, often

severe. Imagine if guns were freely available in homes, particularly in large cities which have rampant domestic violence rates.

Most of those who think about guns in the home are surely unaware of the most tragic statistics of all, and they are not the statistics from Columbine. They are the statistics that are awesomely larger. They are statistics that show accidental killings occur routinely from guns that are simply lying in the home, often out of the reach of children but found by children whose natural curiosity often makes them look for guns. Very few guns are used the way they are in the movies to counter somebody entering through the bedroom window and you shoot them dead. That is not what happens to guns in the home. Look at the statistics and you will know. But in big troubled cities there are other hazards in addition.

The lady who takes care of my handicapped daughter when I told her about how some people wanted guns in the homes gave me I think the best wakeup call of all. She said, "Oh, my God, what will happen to these bad teenagers?" The first she could think of is in her high crime neighborhood in southeast Washington, the troubled teens would be all over the place. She has a hard enough time with them now, but if they think that everybody is packing a gun in her neighborhood, she did not know what she would do. I know that because I represent this city. I do not expect Members to know that who do not. That is why I do not expect them to impose guns on me when my city council has not done so. In this town, particularly in high crime neighborhoods, the criminals and, yes, the teens would be breaking in not looking for computers but looking for guns because they hear the people are packing guns now because the Congress says, "That is the thing to do if you live in a high crime city, pack your gun in."

I do not need this body to send this message to a city that is one of the most violent cities in the United States and that our police chief is just getting under control. He was at the forefront of those who said he did not want our handgun laws wiped out and for God sakes do not send a message from the House that everybody ought to pack a gun.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, a grandmother named Helen Foster was shot in the back in southwest Washington as she gathered children after she heard gunshots, recognizing that they might be in danger. She died at D.C. General Hospital. What happens when there are guns in the home in a city like this? What happens when there are no handgun laws in a city like this? Grandmothers get shot in the back trying to defend their children.

Let the District be the District. Go home and be what you want to be. Let my District be what it is.

NORTH KOREA: EXPERIENCE DICTATES CAUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, despite a number of highly contentious foreign policy issues that have been debated in this body in recent months, this Member continues to believe that American interests are best served by a bipartisan foreign policy. When the executive and legislative branches, furthermore, speak with one voice, the Nation is more likely to enjoy success in preserving its vital interests.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the Committee on International Relations, this Member has had the opportunity to focus closely on the Clinton administration's policy toward this important region. Frankly, the administration deserves credit on several fronts in its overall policy there, including its active support for democracy in Indonesia and a peaceful resolution to the festering situation that is East Timor, the successful renegotiation of the U.S.-Japan Security Guidelines, its commitment with Congress to maintain 100,000 U.S. military personnel in the Asian region, and the judgment to elevate the import of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

Genuine bipartisanship in Congress complementary to formulating a foreign policy, however, requires that Members of the Congress speak out when serious foreign policy failings by this or any other administration are detected. It is in this context that this Member expresses deepening concerns over the Clinton administration's continued lack of a coherent, comprehensive strategy towards Pyongyang, toward North Korea. This situation presents a grave challenge to vital U.S. national security interests.

In recent weeks, two important U.S. missions have traveled to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that is, North Korea. The first mission was that of former Secretary of Defense William Perry who has been tasked by the President to complete a congressionally mandated, comprehensive review of U.S. policy regarding the problems of the Korean Peninsula. Dr. Perry is an outstanding public servant, extraordinarily well qualified to undertake this important assignment. In large part because of his reputation, his qualifications and the high bipartisan respect he has here on Capitol Hill, expectations are very high that he will be successful in engaging Pyongyang and presenting them with a clear choice of another track for its relationship with the United States, the Republic of Korea—that is South Korea—and our allies in the region.

The second mission involved the inspection of the suspected underground nuclear facility at Kumchang-ni, North Korea. That country, my colleagues will remember, agreed to abandon its